Step by Step Instruction:

How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case Numbers

Professional Standards Learning Code 3120 Length: 1 hour



Released October 2016

"Step by Step Instruction: How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case Numbers" is intended for the School Food Authorities in the state of Arizona. All regulations are specific to operating the National School Lunch Program under the direction of the Arizona Department of Education.

Step by Step *Instruction:* How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case **Numbers**

Intended Audience and Content

- This How-To-Guide is intended for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) who are required to conduct direct certification.
- The following slides provide guidance on how to conduct direct certification using File Upload: Case Number when using the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) CNP Direct Certification matching system.
- Attendees are expected to already understand how the ADE CNP Direct Certification matches students for free meal benefits prior to reviewing this How-To-Guide. Please review the How-To-Guide below before continuing:
 - <u>Step by Step Instruction: Introduction to CNP Direct Certification in CNP Direct Certification/Direct Verification</u>

Step by Step Instruction: How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case **Numbers**

Objectives

At the end of this training, attendees should be able to:

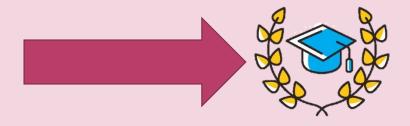
- understand how to conduct CNP Direct Certification using File Upload: Case Numbers;
- understand the CNP Direct Certification match results; and
- be aware of common errors that come up using this search method.

Comprehension Check

Throughout this guide there will be comprehension quiz questions to test your knowledge and help you apply what you're learning.

Be sure to review these quiz questions and the answers, available within the guide.

This icon will indicate a comprehension quiz question, and the background of the slides will be a light pink like you see on this slide.



Step by Step *Instruction:* How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case Number

The Step by Step Instruction will review:

Overview of the CNP Direct Certification Process	Slides 6-11
Creating an Excel Spreadsheet using Case Number	Slides 12-29
Log into CNP Direct Certification	Slides 30-37
File Upload: Case Number	Slides 38-45
Results of CNP Direct Certification	Slides 46-52
FAQ: Results of DC Report	Slides 53-58

The following slides will only cover how-to instructions for File Upload: Case Number.

Please refer back to the <u>ADE Online Training Library</u> for other How-To-Guides

regarding other ways to search in CNP Direct Certification.



Overview of the CNP Direct Certification Process

Direct Certification

Direct Certification is the process of determining which children are eligible for free meal benefits based on documentation obtained directly from the appropriate state or local agency. Children directly certified will <u>automatically</u> receive free meal benefits without submitting a household application.

ADE has created an online computer matching system called *CNP Direct Certification* which allows LEAs to directly obtain confirmation from such agencies to determine if their students will qualify for free meal benefits.

LEAs can access this system at any time to generate documentation that may be used to certify students for free meal benefits within the program year.

Searching For Students

Overview of the CNP Direct Certification Process

Searching for Students

- **1**. Choose the search method:
 - <u>File Upload</u>: Create and save an Excel file that contains a list of student data. The file is then uploaded into CNP Direct Certification.
 - Individual Student Lookup: Type student data directly into the table in CNP Direct Certification.
 - <u>State Match</u>: If your district assigns Student Accountability Information Services (SAIS) IDs, you are able to select your site that has pre-populated enrollment information in a dropdown found in CNP Direct Certification.
- 2. Choose the data format you want to use to search for the student:
 - First Name/Last Name/Date of Birth (Standard Format)
 - Social Security Number
 - Student Accountability Information Services (SAIS) ID
 - Case Number

SAIS Details

Overview of the CNP Direct Certification Process

Student Accountability Information Services ID (SAIS IDs)

SAIS ID - Arizona Department of Education (ADE) assigns each student with a SAIS ID that acts as a student identifier from K-12th grade.

Student data is pulled from pre-populated enrollment information in AzEDS, via the SAIS system. SAIS IDs can be utilized to conduct CNP Direct Certification only if the site uses AzEDS to send information to the SAIS division of ADE.

If your school does not report AzEDS data to ADE, the State Match option will not provide results and will show zero (o) students. This will also affect all search methods using SAIS IDs such as File Upload using SAIS IDs and Individual Student Lookup using SAIS IDs.

SAIS Support Center:

Phone: 602-542-7378

Toll Free: 1-866-577-9636

Email: <u>ADESupport@azed.gov</u>

http://www.azed.gov/student-accountability/

Case Number Search

Overview of the CNP Direct Certification Process

Case Number Search

Historically, LEAs had the ability to enter a case number provided on a household application only during the time period of annual verification activities. LEAs would enter the case number if the application was selected for Verification to attempt to directly verify the household's eligibility for SNAP or TANF. LEAs may now use the CNP Direct Certification system to enter a case number provided by a household as an attempt to *directly certify* all students on the application.

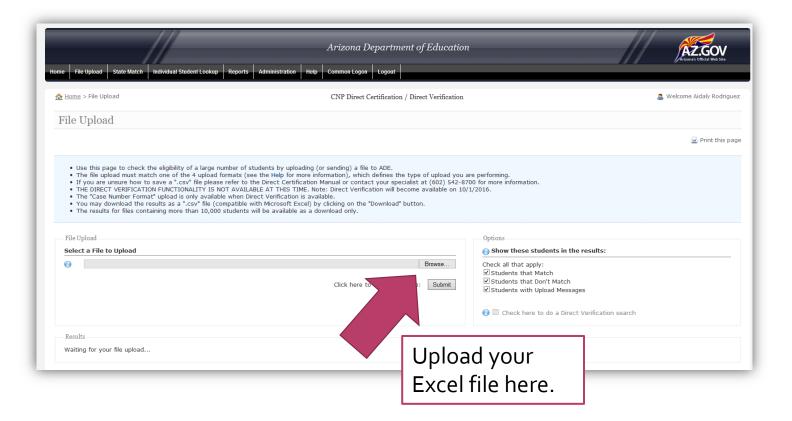
The LEA may search for the case number in the CNP Direct Certification system only <u>after</u> the case number application has been deemed complete and the household is provided free meal benefits.

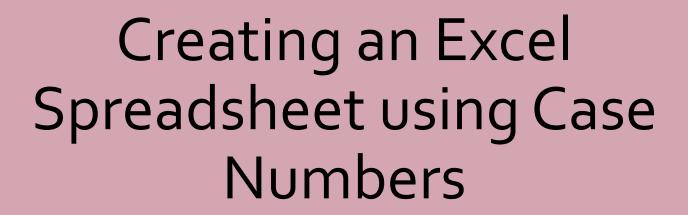
 Please refer to the memorandum <u>HNS: 13-2016 CNP Direct Certification</u> <u>Enhancements</u> for further guidance on searching for case numbers.

Overview of the CNP Direct Certification Process

File Upload: Case Number

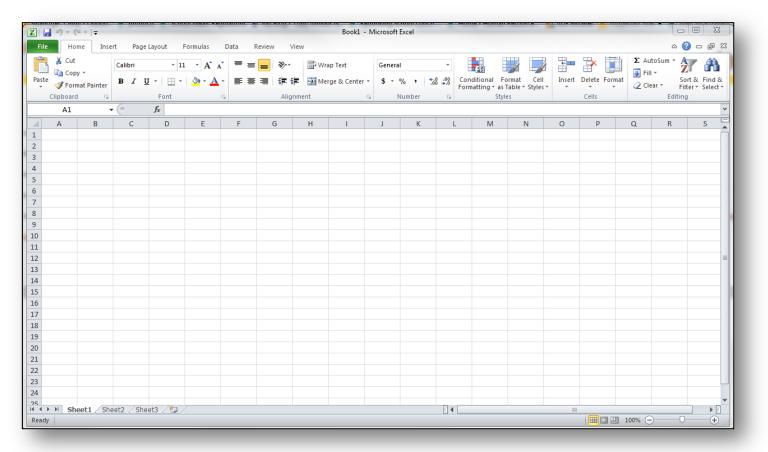
This method is recommended to search the eligibility of a large number of case numbers.



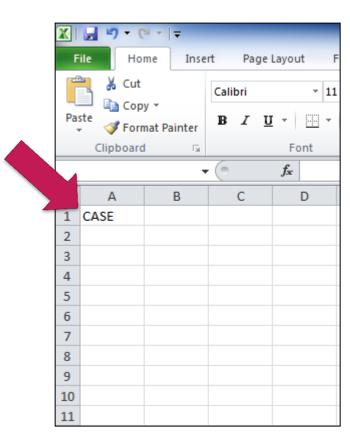


1. Open the Excel application 🜆 on your computer.

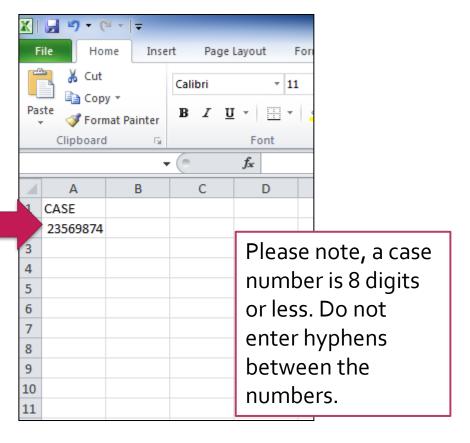
Your screen should display a blank spreadsheet as shown below:



2. Type the word *CASE* into cell A1.



3. Starting on row 2, type the first case number. Please note, Excel will automatically remove any leading zeros. Once the file is uploaded, the CNP Direct Certification system will automatically add them back.



Comprehension Check

What should you type in cell A1 when creating the file using Case Numbers?

- A. SSN
- B. The social security number for the first student
- C. CASE
- D. File Upload Case Number



Comprehension Check

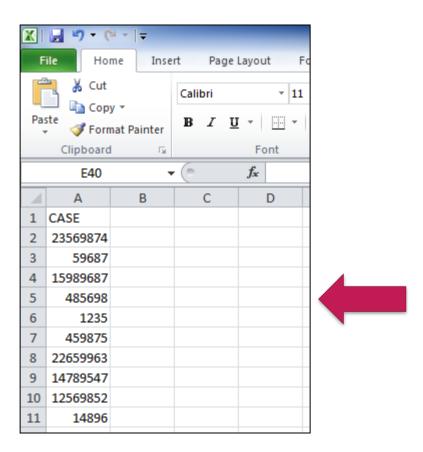
What should you type in cell A1 when creating the file using Case Numbers?

- A. SSN
- B. The social security number for the first student
- C. CASE
- D. File Upload Case Number

The system will only accept files that are formatted correctly. Be sure the first column, first row (cell A1) says *CASE*. Anything else in that first cell will create an error and will not produce search results.



4. Repeat the steps for every student. Each row must contain a single case number.



Comprehension

How should the case numbers be formatted when they are entered in the spreadsheet?

- A. All digits listed with hyphens creating groups of numbers (example 12-34-56-78)
- B. All digits with spaces between each number (example 12 34 56 78)
- C. All digits with forward slashes in between the groups (example 12/34/56/78)
- D. All digits with no spaces (example 12345678)



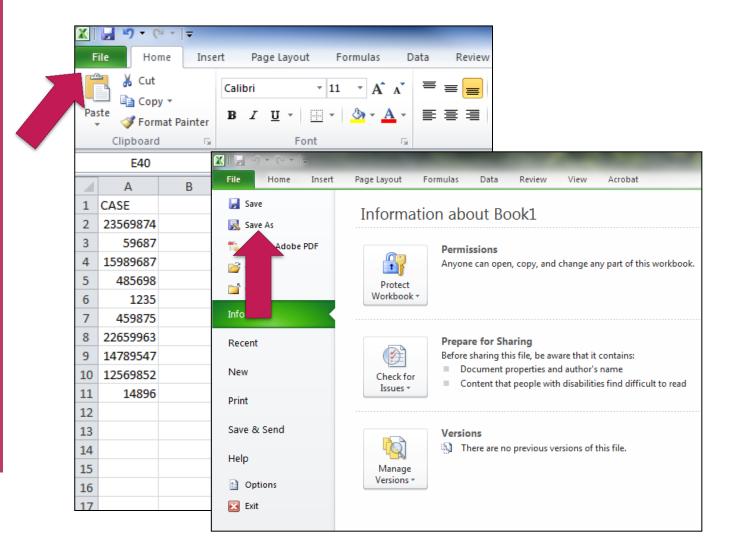
Comprehension Check

How should the case numbers be formatted when they are entered in the spreadsheet?

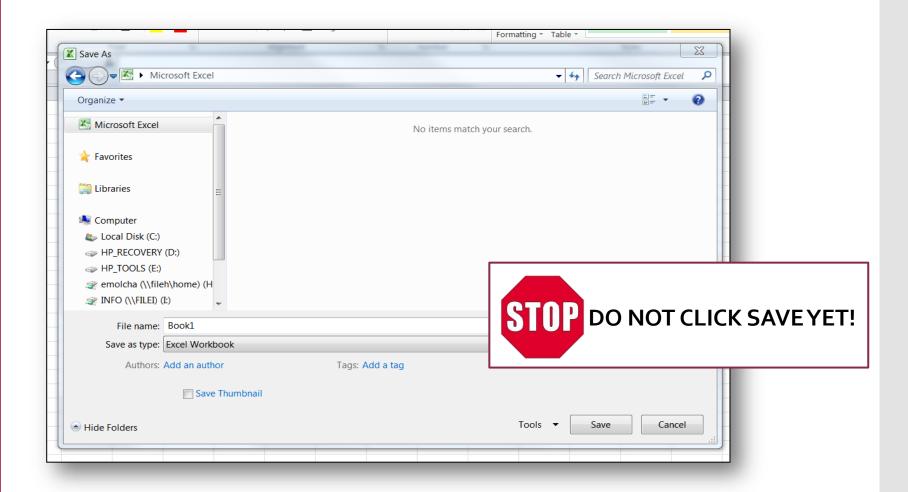
- A. All digits listed with hyphens creating groups of numbers (example 12-34-56-78)
- B. All digits with spaces between each number (example 12 34 56 78)
- C. All digits with forward slashes in between the groups (example 12/34/56/78)
- D. All digits with no spaces (example 12345678)

The system will search the DES database for exact matches. This means the case numbers need to be listed exactly like they are in the DES database, which is 12345678. Refer back to slide 15 for a reminder about this guidance.

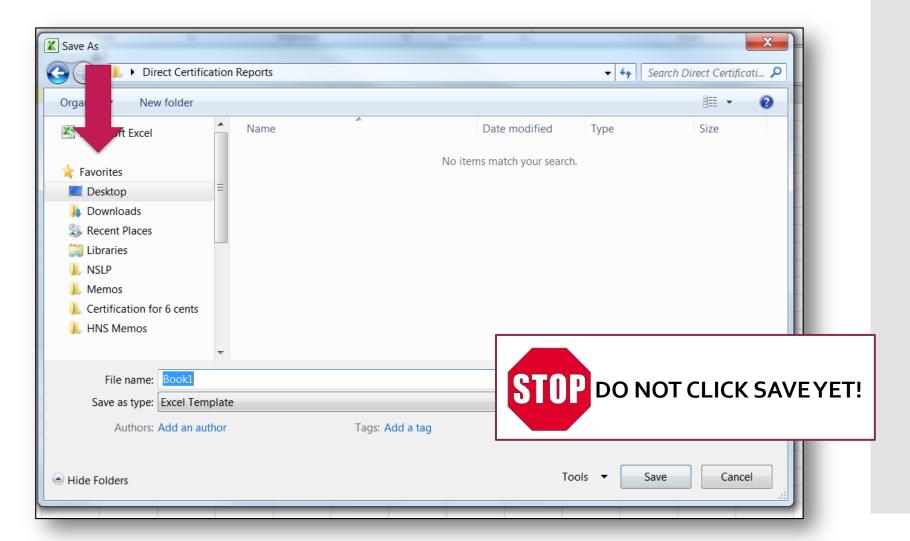
5. When all of the case numbers have been entered, click found on the top Excel menu, and choose the option save As.



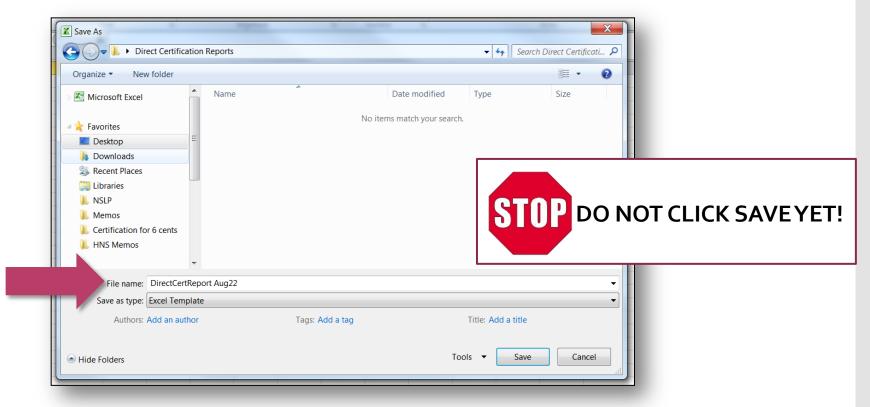
A new window will appear. It should look like this:



6. Select the location where you want to save the file.

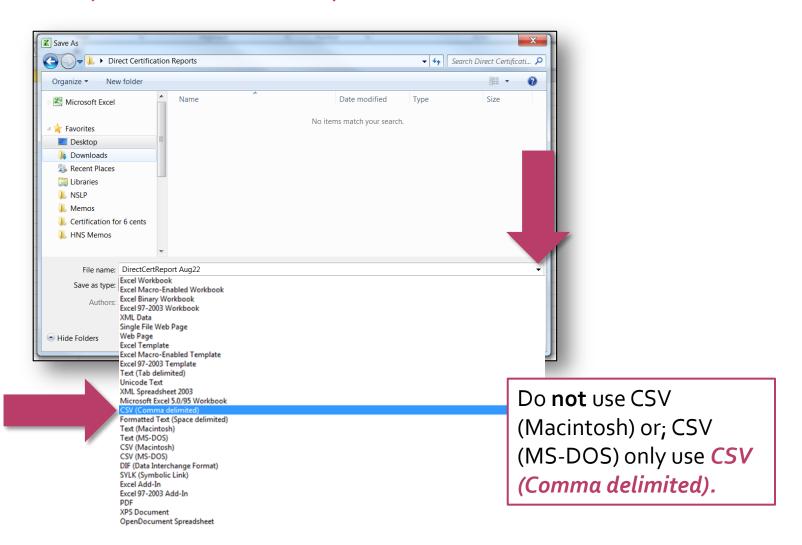


7. In the field *File name*, enter the name of the file. As a best practice, you should include the date you created the file within the file name.



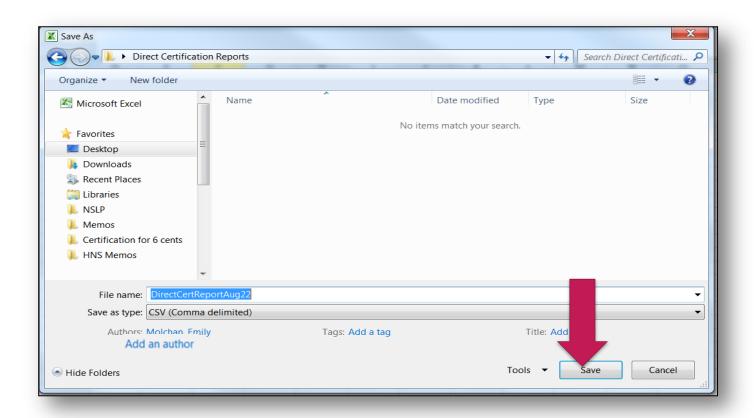
For example, on the image above the file was created on August 22, so the file name DirectCertReportAug22 was used.

8. In the field *Save as type*, use the drop down to select *CSV (Comma delimited)*.



9. After you select *CSV (Comma delimited)* click



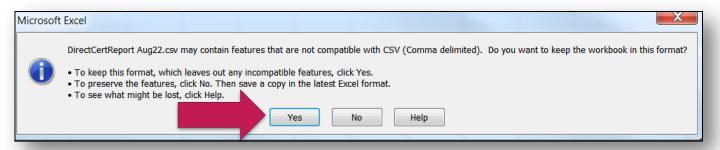


Depending on which version of Excel is being used, the following windows may appear after clicking ______.

Click **OK** to confirm saving the file.



Click **Yes** to confirm saving the file.



Comprehension Check

Can you save the Excel file by clicking the save icon <a>=?

- A. Yes. As long as you know where you save the Excel file, it can be uploaded.
- B. Yes. That icon automatically saves the Excel file in the format needed for the search.
- C. No. You have to click Save As and choose a .csv file before you save it.
- D. No. That icon doesn't save the Excel file anywhere on your computer.



Comprehension Check

Can you save the Excel file by clicking the save icon ??

- A. Yes. As long as you know where you save the Excel file, it can be uploaded.
- B. Yes. That icon automatically saves the Excel file in the format needed for the search.
- C. No. You have to click Save As and choose a .csv file before you save it.
- D. No. That icon doesn't save the Excel file anywhere on your computer.

The icon shown will save the file in .xls format. In order to use the Excel file for direct certification file upload, the file must be in .csv format. The Save As feature must be used in order to change the file format.



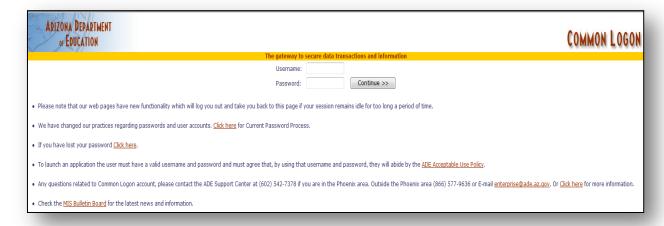
1. Go to the ADE Health and Nutrition Webpage: http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/nslp/.



2. Click on common Logon found on the upper right of the webpage.



A new webpage will load. It should look like this screen:



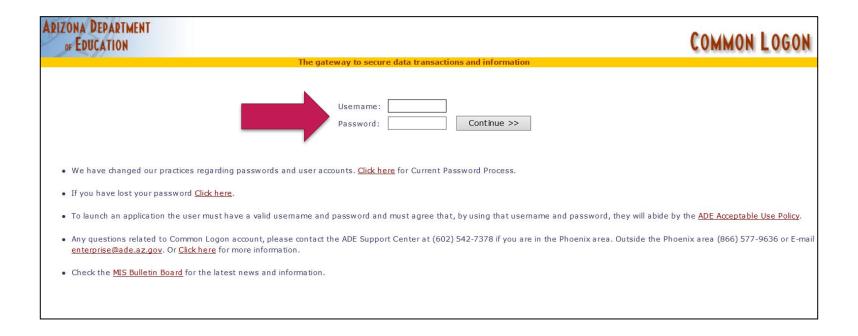


You must have a username and password in order to access Common Logon.

*If you do not have a username and password:

- Complete the form Common Logon Permissions for NSLP/Direct Certification, requesting Direct Certification permissions, and send to ADE. This form can be found on the <u>ADE Program Forms</u> <u>Webpage</u>.
- Receive a common logon username and password to access CNP Direct Certification/Direct Verification in 7-10 days.

3. Enter your Username and Password.



You have successfully logged into Common Logon.

After logging in, your webpage will show all Common Logon Applications you have access to.



4. Click on

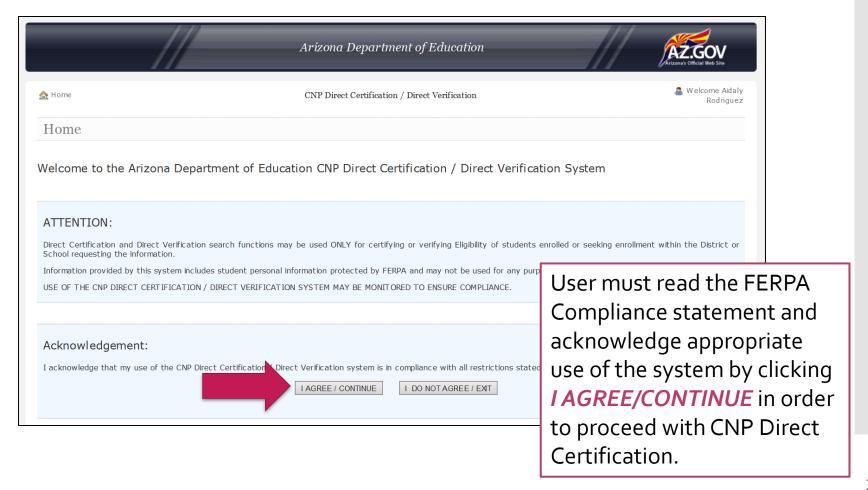
One CNP Direct Certification / Direct Verification



Log into CNP Direct Certification

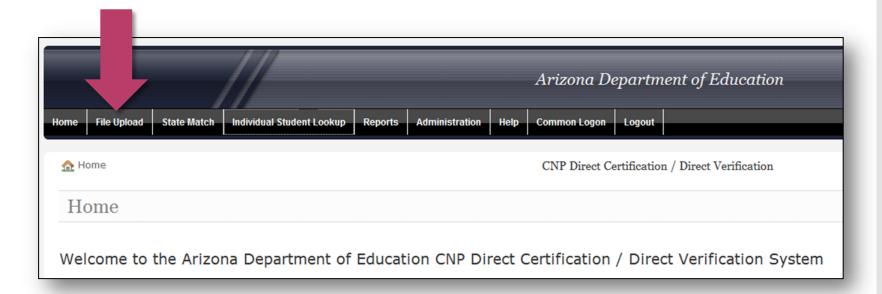
You have successfully logged into CNP Direct Certification/Direct Verification System.

A new screen will load. It should look like this:

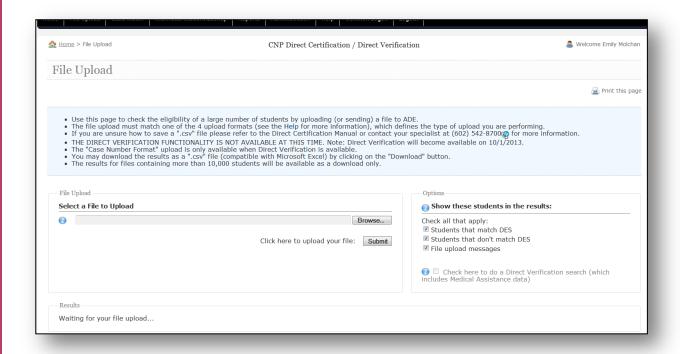




To start a search using the file upload: case number method, click on file Upload found in the black menu bar.

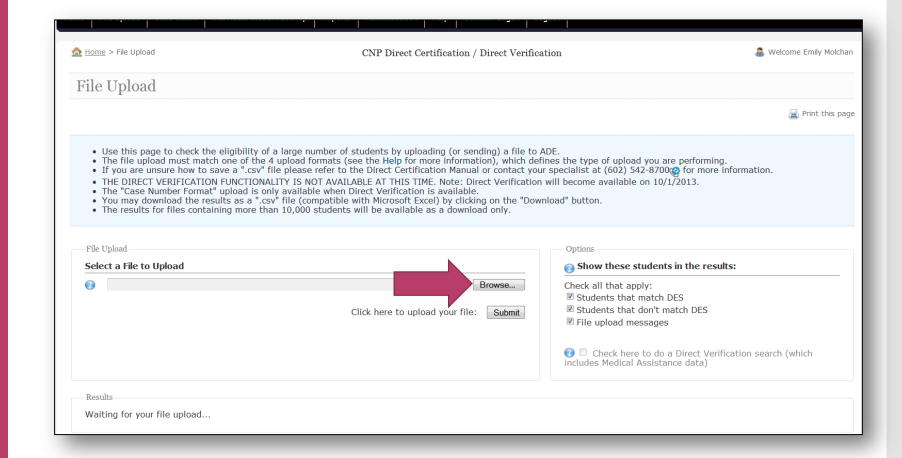


A new screen will load. It should look like this:

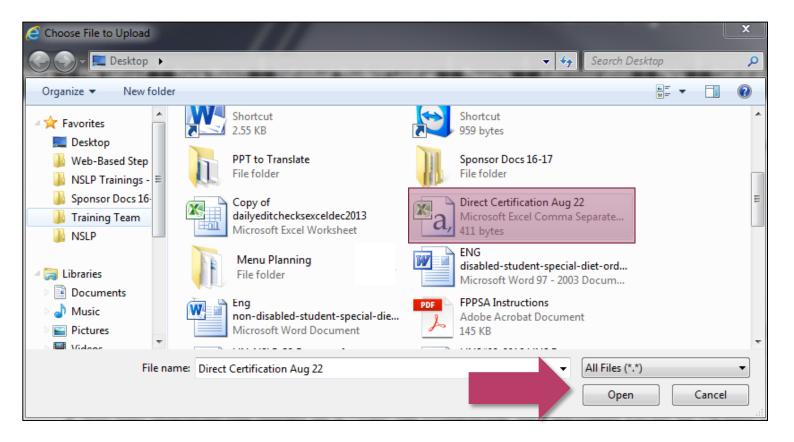


- On the left side of the screen is a search bar titled, *File Upload*. You are able to upload the file you created and saved on your computer.
- On the right side of the screen are search options. You are able to choose which format to search students in and how you want the system to display your matches.

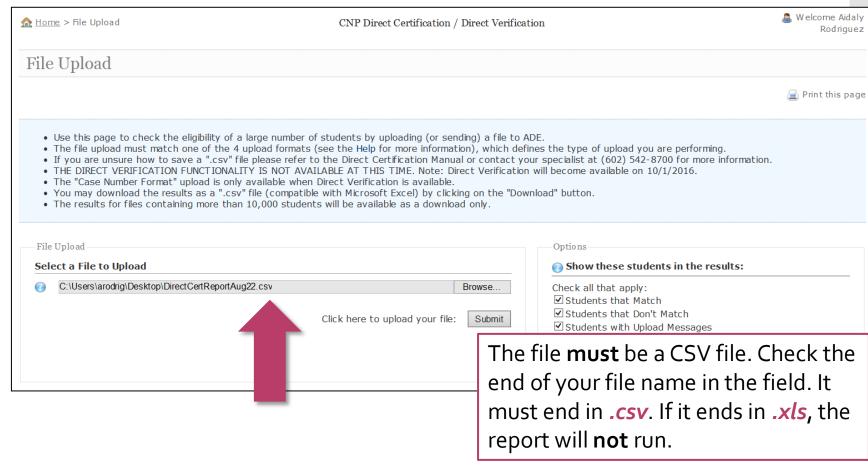
1. Click Browse... to upload the Excel file you created.



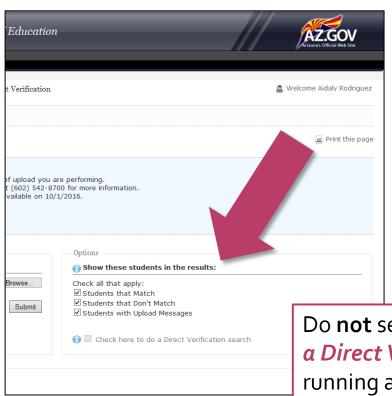
2. After you click Browse... you will see a new window appear. At this time you will locate the Excel file you created, and click Open.



Your **File Upload** search bar will show the Excel file you created. The field should show the file ending in **.csv** as shown below:



3. Select how you wish to show match results by checking boxes in the section, *Show these students in the results*.

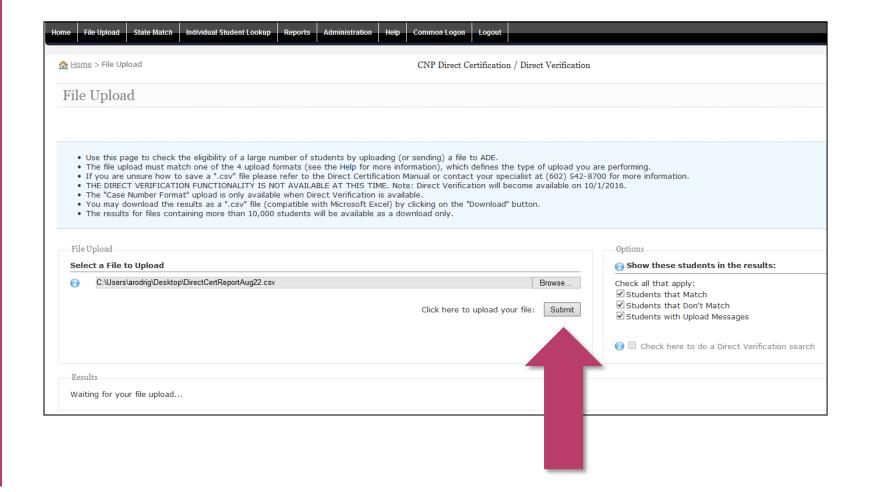


To get a match result for all students entered, check the boxes for :

- Students that Match;
- Students that Don't Match; and
- Students with Upload Messages.

Do **not** select the *Check here to do a Direct Verification search* when running a direct certification report.
This option is only to be used during Verification activities.

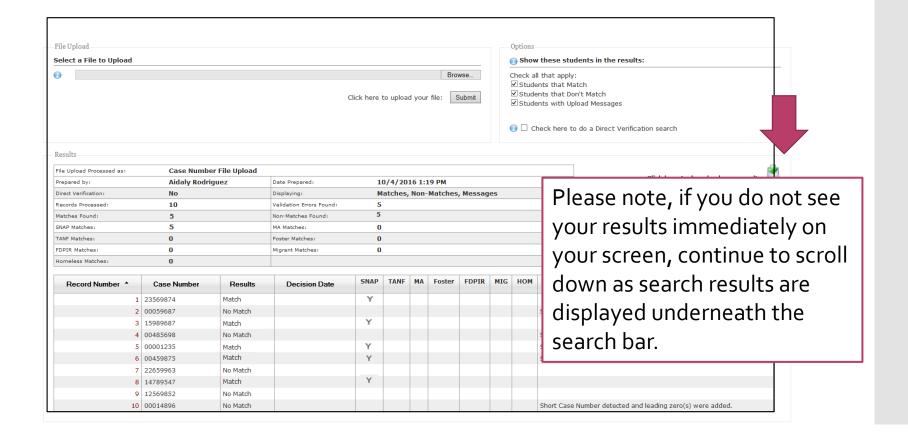
4. Click Submit to run the report.





Match Results

Once you upload the file and click Submit, the window will refresh and display your search results below the file upload search bar.



Saving Search Results

Match results must be kept on file to support why free meal benefits were provided to students. Please make sure to print or download these results, as you will not be able to retrieve them once you close the computer window. Results are not saved in the CNP Direct Certification system.



To **print** results, click the icon **Print** this page found at the top of the screen. This print will include the results and a summary box that contains information such as **prepared** by and date prepared.



To **download** results, click the icon *Click here to download your results* found directly above the match results displayed on the computer screen. Match results will be downloaded as an Excel file. Please note, when downloading results, the summary box that contains information such as *prepared by* and *date prepared* will not be included.

If results are downloaded, as a best practice you should include the date direct certification was conducted within the file name.

For example: Direct Certification is conducted on August 23, your file name should be DCresultsAug232016.

Extending Eligibility

If a case number comes back as a *Match*, all enrolled household members qualify for free meal benefits. This is referred to as *extending eligibility*.

If a Case Number Does Not Match

When a case number is not found in the agency's SNAP or TANF database, the words *No Match* will be listed next to the case number. Please note, this does <u>not</u> make the household's eligibility paid. The categorical application remains in effect as do the free meal benefits for the household members.

Households are given the opportunity to provide a case number either for the child or for any household member. The categorical eligibility of any household member in an Assistance Program conveys free meal benefits through the Child Nutrition Programs to all children in that household.

The CNP Direct Certification system only searches for case numbers for individuals between the ages of 3 and 21. If the household provides a case number on the household application that belongs to a member 21 years or older, the system will <u>not</u> be able to identify it and the case number will appear as a *No Match*.

 Please refer to the memorandum <u>HNS Memo 13-2016 CNP Direct Certification</u> <u>Enhancements</u> as well as the <u>Eligibility Manual for School Meals</u> for further guidance on searching for case numbers.

Comprehension Check

True or False: Once you see the results, you are done with direct certification.

- A. True.
- B. False. You have to email ADE to let them know you did direct certification. Once you do that, you are done.
- C. False. You must download or print your report and keep it on file. Once you have downloaded and/or printed the results, you are done conducting direct certification



Comprehension Check

True or False: Once you see the results on the screen, you are done with direct certification.

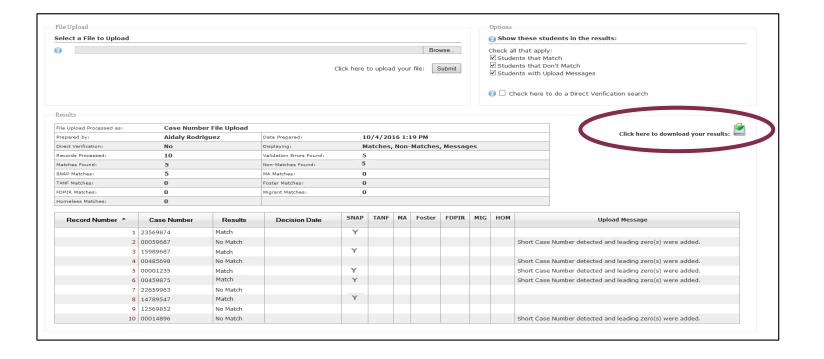
- A. True.
- B. False. You have to email ADE to let them know you did direct certification. Once you do that, you are done.
- C. False. You must download or print your report and keep it on file. Once you have downloaded and/or printed the results, you are done conducting direct certification

All LEAs must keep these results on file. They can be downloaded and saved electronically, printed out, or both. The key is that you must be able to access the results at any time.



Do I need to download my results or can I just print the webpage?

 Whichever method works better for the user. Upon request, the LEA must provide to ADE a copy of the original report and the date CNP Direct Certification was conducted. Please see slide 48 for details on how to print or download results.



Would ADE accept my CNP Direct Certification report if I copied the Match and No Match results onto an Excel spreadsheet?

 ADE will ask to see the original report created from CNP Direct Certification. The LEA must keep the <u>original search results format</u> from the webpage or downloaded results. As long as the LEA has at least one copy in its original form, the LEA can copy the results into their own format.

On my results page, if there is a Decision Date next to the student, do their free meal benefits begin on that date?

• No. When the system provides a match under the column, *DES Results*, it also provides a date listed under the column titled, *DES Decision Date*. For purposes of certifying students for free meal benefits, we disregard the *DES Decision Date* and record the date the CNP Direct Certification was conducted.

Record Number *	Case Number	Results	Decision Date	SNAP	TANF	MA	FOSTER	FDPIR	MIG	ном
1	12356478	No Match	\ /							
2	15458798	Match	08/31/2015	Y						
3	01565898	No Match								

On my results page, is it ok if the column, Decision Date, is blank?

 Yes, it is ok if the column Decision Date is blank on the results report. For purposes of certifying students for free meal benefits, we disregard the DES Decision Date and record the date the CNP Direct Certification was conducted.

My results page states my file is invalid, what do I do?

- If you receive this error you must ensure the following is correct:
 - the file you uploaded has the word CASE typed in the first row first column (cell A1);
 - case numbers were entered in the correct format; and
 - your file was saved as a CSV (Comma delimited) file.

Results							
File Upload Processed as:	Invalid File Format value detected						
Prepared by:	Aidaly Rodriguez	Date Prepared:	8/16/2016 10:33 AM				
Direct Verification:	No	Displaying:	Matches, Non-Matches, Messages				
Records Processed:	0	Validation Errors Found:	0				
Matches Found:	0	Non-Matches Found:	0				
SNAP Matches:	0	MA Matches:	0				
TANF Matches:	0	Foster Matches:	0				
FDPIR Matches:	0	Migrant Matches:	0				
Homeless Matches:	0						

Technical Assistance

If you have any questions about directly certifying students for meal benefits, use:

 The Eligibility Manual for School Meals and the various other How To Guides at:

http://www.azed.gov/health nutrition/nslp/programguidance/

For other questions about Direct Certification, please contact your School Nutrition Program Specialist.

End of Training

Congratulations!

You have completed the Step by Step Instruction: *How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case Numbers.*

In order to count this training towards your Professional Standards training hours, the training content must align with your job duties.

Information to include when documenting this training for Professional Standards:

- Training Title: Step by Step Instruction: How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case Numbers
- Learning Code: 3120
- Key Area: 3000- Administration
- Length: 1 hour

Please note, attendees must document the amount of training hours indicated on the training despite the amount of time it takes to complete it.



End of Training

Requesting a Training Certificate

Please click on the link below to complete a brief survey about this training. Once the survey is complete, ADE will create a certificate of completion and email it to you within 10 business days.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OnlineHowToGuides

The information below is for your reference when completing the survey.

Training Title: Step by Step Instruction: *How to Conduct Direct Certification using File Upload: Case Numbers*

Professional Standards Learning Code: 3120

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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